

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINT, SP

SUBJECT: POLITICAL POTPOURRI

1. OPPOSITION NEGOTIATING TEAM. EIGHT OF THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM HAVE BEEN FIRMLY DECIDED, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THEY ARE: JOAQUIN SATRISTEGUI (LIBERAL), FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT), ANTON CANELLAS (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT), FELIPE GONZALEZ AND ENRIQUE TIerno GALVAN (SOCIALISTS), SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO (SUBSTITUTING FOR SNATIAGO CARRILLO" (COMMUNIST), JORDI PUJOL (CATALONIA), AND VALENTIN PAZ ANDRADE (GALICIA). THE BASQUE REPRESENTATIVE REMAINS UNDECIDED, ALTHOUGH JAVIER ARZALLUZ OF THE BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY (PNVI HAS BEEN RUMORED TO BE THE CHOICE. THE TNETH MEMBER OF THE TEAM WAS TO HAVE BEEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VARIOUS OPPOSITION LABOR ORGANIZATIONS; NOT SURPRISINGLY, HOWEVER, THEY WERE UNABLE TO AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES AND THEREFORE WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED. THE TEAM MAY HOLD ITS FIRST INTRAMURAL SESSION TONIGHT.

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2. SUAREZ MEETS WITH CATALAN OPPOSITIONISTS. THE GOVT AND OPPOSITION TOOK A SECOND STEP ON THE ROAD TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE GOVT MOVED TO ENCOURAGE CATALAN SUPPORT FOR THE DEC. 15 REFERENDUM, WHEN PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ MET SEPARATELY IN MADRID YESTERDAY WITH THREE MODERATE CATALAN POLITICAL LEADERS: JORDI PUJOL (CONVERGENCIA DEMOCRATICA DE CATALUNYA), JOSEP PALLACH (PARTIDO SOCIALISTA EX-REAGrupament), AND RAMON TRIAS FARGAS (ESQUERRA DEMOCRATICA). BOTH PUJOL AND TRIAS FARGAS LATER CHARACTERIZED THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH SUAREZ AS POSITIVE; PALLACH'S IMPRESSIONS WERE NOT REPORTED BY THE PRESS.

3. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REDEMPTION ELECTS OFFICERS. LEADERS OF THE FSD YESTERDAY ELECTED FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ AND JOSE RAMON LASUEN PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL RESPECTIVELY. THESE DESIGNATIONS ARE CONSIDERED "PROVISIONAL" UNTIL RATIFIED BY THE FSD'S CONGRESS, WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE BY JAN. 31. IN A STATEMENT RELEASED AFTER THE MEETING, THE FSD CALLED FOR ABSTENTION FROM THE REFERENDUM, BUT DOWNPLAYED IT AS A "FORMAL PROCEDURE," AND LOOKED TO ELECTIONS, IN WHICH IT DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE "IF THE NECESSARY DEMOCRATIC REQUIREMENTS ARE MET."

4. PNV HOLDS RALLY. THE BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FORTY YEARS, HELD AN OPEN MEETING SUNDAY IN SAN SEBASTIAN, GUIPUZCOA, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 5000 PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER, PNV LEADER JAVIER ARZALLUZ, ADVOCATED ABSTENTION FROM THE REFERENDUM, THEREBY ADOPTING A ROUGHER STANCE THAN HAVE FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "EQUIP," BUT PLUMPED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 1977 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE BASQUE SCENE, ARZALLUZ TOLD LABATT IN RECENT CONVERSATION THAT FEW BASQUE VOTERS FAVORED OUT AND OUT SEPARATISM, WITH GREAT MAJORITY WANTING SOMETHING BETWEEN AUTONOMY AND FEDERALISM. WHILE PNV WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT IT COULD ATTRACT ITS SHARE OF VOTERS ("THE BASQUES WANT A PARTY OF THEIR OWN"), ARZALLUZ ADMITTED FRAGA'S POPULAR ALLIANCE MIGHT MAKE INROADS IN HIS AREA. WITH REGARD TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNIST ACTIVITY, THE PNV LEADER NOTED THAT THEY STILL COULD NOT COME OUT IN THE OPEN IN THE BASQUE REGION. THE PCE HAD TO OPERATE THROUGH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS, NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GROUPS. STABLER

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